

2007



# CITY OF LOMITA WATER SYSTEM

## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

### Dear Customer:

The City of Lomita is pleased to provide you with our 2007 Annual Water Quality Report. We are committed to serving you a reliable supply of high quality water that meets State and Federal standards. Our on-going efforts include increasing the capacity and reliability of the water system and ensuring the quality of our water supply through rigorous water quality testing.

There are two drinking water quality standards, Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards. Primary Drinking Water Standards are set for substances that are thought to pose a health risk at certain levels and are enforceable by law. Secondary Drinking Water Standards are set for substances that do not pose a health risk and are intended to control the aesthetic qualities related to the public acceptance of drinking water. Secondary Standards are not enforceable by law. We are pleased to inform you that during all of 2007, your drinking water met all Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards.

This report is intended to provide you with a better understanding of your drinking water. It contains information about where your water comes from, how your water is treated and monitored, and what contaminants may be present in your water. Moreover, we have included source water assessments, results from our water quality testing, and general information about your drinking water.

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

### Water Quality Monitoring



To ensure that water is safe to drink, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

To meet these regulations, the City has contracted with the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (LACWWD) to oversee monitoring and reporting to comply with Federal and State water quality regulations. The LACWWD contracts with a State-certified laboratory to conduct all water quality analyses. The distribution system and an emergency source well are tested for chemical, physical, radiological, and bacteriological parameters as required by Federal and State regulations. Additional organic and inorganic chemicals are tested that are not yet regulated.

Key locations within the distribution system have been selected to monitor water quality. Every week, the distribution system is tested for bacteria and disinfectant levels to ensure that you receive safe and high quality drinking water. The distribution system is also tested for color, odor, temperature, and turbidity monthly, and disinfection byproducts quarterly. All tests are conducted in a State-certified laboratory using Federally approved testing methods. Our contracted laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments capable of detecting contaminants at very minute quantities.

### Public Participation and Contact Information

Regular City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Lomita City Hall, 24300 Narbonne Avenue.

The City of Lomita and the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts welcome your comments and participation in the preparation of this Annual Water Quality Report. For questions or comments regarding water quality

of this report, please contact the city's Public Works Department at (310) 325-9830.

To view this report on the internet, please visit the City's website at [www.lomita.com](http://www.lomita.com) or the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Waterworks website at <http://ladpw.org/wwd/web/waterquality/>.

# The Source of Your Water and Its Treatment

The City purchases its water supply from West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD). WBMWD gets its water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The source of water is the Sacramento River/San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project and the California Aqueduct beginning at Lake Havasu. The City also maintains a stand-by well. This well is for emergency only use and was not used in 2007.

The water from WBMWD is treated at the MWD Weymouth Treatment Plant using conventional treatment methods, which include coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration. The water is then disinfected to kill any microorganisms, such as bacteria, and reduce the potential for their regrowth in the distribution pipes.

# Source Water Assessment

In December 2002, the MWD completed its source water assessment of its Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreational use, and wastewater.

A summary of the source water assessment can be obtained by contacting MWD by phone at (213) 217-6850.



# Water Quality Data

The table below lists all drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2007 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The City tests weekly for bacteria in the distribution system and none was detected during 2007. Trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, and chlorine are also tested for regularly in the distribution system and are reported below.

PARAMETER	PHG or MCLG	MCL	TREATED SURFACE WATER		TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT		
			RANGE OF DETECTION	AVERAGE LEVEL			
PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS							
INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS							
ALUMINUM (ppm)	0.6	1	ND-0.14	0.07	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes		
ARSENIC (ppb)	0.004	10	ND-2.6	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes		
FLUORIDE (ppm)	1	2	0.1-0.2	0.2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories		
NITRATE (AS N) (ppm)	10	10	ND-0.8	0.5	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; sewage; natural erosion		
MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS							
Heterotrophic Plate Count HPC (CFU/mL)	NS	TT	ND-2.0	ND	Naturally present in the environment		
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS PRECURSORS							
TOC (ppm)	NS	TT	1.8-2.8	2.2	Various natural and manmade sources		
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WATER QUALITY							
DISINFECTANTS & DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS	MCLG OR [MRDLG]	MCL OR [MRDL]	RANGE OF DETECTION	HIGHEST 4-QUARTERLY AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT		
TOTAL CHLORINE (ppm)	[4] as Cl <sub>2</sub>	[4] as Cl <sub>2</sub>	1.97-2.15	2.08	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment		
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (ppb)	NS	80	17.4-60.5	34.4	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
HALOACETIC ACIDS (ppb)	NS	60	6.7-38.7	20.0	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination		
RESIDENTIAL TAP WATER QUALITY							
LEAD AND COPPER	PHG	ACTION LEVEL	RANGE OF DETECTION	90TH % LEVEL	NUMBER OF SITES SAMPLED	NUMBER OF SITES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT
COPPER (ppm)	0.17	1.3	ND-0.44	0.18	37	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD (ppb)	2	15	ND-0.02	ND	37	0	Internal corrosion of household plumbing system; discharge from industrial manufactures; erosion of natural deposits
PARAMETER	PHG or MCLG	MCL	TREATED SURFACE WATER		TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT		
			RANGE OF DETECTION	AVERAGE LEVEL			
SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS							
GENERAL PHYSICAL PARAMETERS							
COLOR (units)	NS	15	1-2	2	Naturally-occurring organic materials		
ODOR THRESHOLD (Units)	NS	3	1	1	Naturally-occurring organic materials		
TURBIDITY (units)	NS	5	0.05-0.07	0.06	Soil runoff		

\* For treated surface water turbidity, the highest single measurement was 0.07 NTU and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the 0.3 NTU EPA limit was 100%

*Secondary Drinking Water Standards (Continued next page)*

PARAMETER	PHG or MCLG	MCL	TREATED SURFACE WATER		TYPICAL SOURCE OF CONSTITUENT
			RANGE OF DETECTION	AVERAGE LEVEL	
ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS					
ALUMINUM (ppb)	600	200	ND-140	70	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
CHLORIDE (ppm)	NS	500	71-101	86	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE (µS/cm)	NS	1600	603-876	751	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
SULFATE (ppm)	NS	500	96-175	140	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS (TDS) (ppm)	NS	1000	348-509	437	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS					
GENERAL MINERAL CONSTITUENTS					
TOTAL ALKALINITY (ppm)	NS	NS	80-97	88	Leaching from natural deposits
CALCIUM (ppm)	NS	NS	30-49	41	Leaching from natural deposits
TOTAL HARDNESS (ppm)	NS	NS	137-211	181	Leaching from natural deposits
MAGNESIUM (ppm)	NS	NS	14-22	19	Leaching from natural deposits
pH (units)	NS	NS	8.1-8.4	8.2	Natural acidity/alkalinity of water
POTASSIUM (ppm)	NS	NS	3.1-4.2	3.7	Leaching from natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	NS	NS	66-93	80	Leaching from natural deposits
OTHER PARAMETERS					
BORON (ppb)	NS	1000 (Notification Level)	130-170	150	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals
CHLORATE (ppb)	NS	800 (Notification Level)	34-38	36	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination; industrial processes
CHROMIUM VI (ppb)	NS	NS	0.1-0.17	0.13	N/A
VANADIUM (ppb)	NS	50 (Notification Level)	ND-4.1	3.3	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals

#### TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE WATER QUALITY DATA TABLE

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the PHGs and MCLGs as is economically or technologically feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.

**Public Health Goal (PHG)** is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** is the level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** is the level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs are set by the USEPA.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS)** are MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**Regulatory Action Level (AL)** is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

ppm = parts per million (milligrams per liter)  
ppb = parts per billion (micrograms per liter)

pCi/L = picoCuries per liter  
NA = Not Applicable

ND = None Detected  
NS = No Standard

µS/cm = microSiemens per centimeter  
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

– No Sample Taken



# CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN WATER

The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over land surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential use.

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## THE QUALITY OF YOUR WATER

**Lead and Copper:** During 2005, we conducted lead and copper sampling from several high-risk homes in the city as required by CDPH. The 90th percentile result for copper was 0.18 milligrams per liter and below detectable levels for lead. These results are well below the regulatory Action Levels for lead and copper in drinking water. The next round of lead and copper monitoring is scheduled for 2008.

**Cryptosporidium:** Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that causes a gastro-intestinal disease called cryptosporidiosis which may cause diarrhea, headache, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, and low grade fever. The infectious microorganism can be transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food, drinking water, or by direct contact with the fecal matter of infected persons or animals.

The chance of its presence in the water supply is extremely small because it is being monitored on a regular basis and very low levels, hundreds of times lower than those reported in other parts of the Country, have been detected in untreated water. Multiple-barrier treatment which includes coagulation, flocculation, filtration, and disinfection at MWD treatment plants further minimize the chance of its presence in treated water.

While the general public is at a very low risk of contracting Cryptosporidium, immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risks of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



## Bottled Water, Home Treatment Devices, and Softeners

Bottled water need not be purchased for health reasons, since tap water meets the Federal and State drinking water standards. If taste is an issue, bottled water might be the answer, but keep in mind that it is over 1,000 times more expensive than tap water.

Installation of a home treatment unit is a personal matter. These devices are not required to make the water meet the Federal and State drinking water standards. In fact, if not properly maintained, these devices may actually cause water quality problems. However, some people are concerned about the taste of their drinking water. If taste is an issue, then a home treatment unit might be appropriate. All units require maintenance and should be bought from a reputable dealer. They should also be tested and validated against accepted performance standards like those used by the National Sanitary Foundation (NSF).

Hardness in drinking water is caused by two non-toxic minerals: calcium and magnesium. Hard water reduces the amount of lather or suds produced by soap. Hard water also tends to leave deposits such as rings in the bathtub, scales on cooking pots and irons, and spots on glassware. At a hardness level above 120 milligrams per liter, a water softener might be considered to reduce deposits in the hot water system and to make washing easier. Distilled water may be used in place of drinking water in irons to prevent deposits.

Water softeners generally replace the non-toxic hardness minerals in the water with sodium. Although the amount of sodium produced is relatively insignificant in comparison to the sodium found in food, people with sodium restricted diets should consult their doctor or install a softener for their hot water supply only.



## Water Conservation Information

Water is an essential resource, not a commodity. The arid climate in Southern California limits our fresh water supply. Conserving water, or being "water wise," protects our natural water supplies, reduces the risk of water shortages during spring and summer months, and reduces your water bill. Water conservation is not as complicated or demanding as you might think.

In addition to protecting the quality of water delivered to you, we also promote and implement water conservation programs in your area. You can conserve water at home and save money by observing the following practical guidelines:

- Install a low flow toilet or use a water displacement device in your toilet and save 2 to 6 gallons of water for every flush. Check the flapper in your toilet to make sure water is not constantly leaking into the toilet bowl.
- Run your dishwasher or washing machine with only full loads and save 300 to 800 gallons every month.
- Install a low flow showerhead and save a gallon of water during each minute of your shower.
- Up to 70% of residential water use occurs outdoors. When designing the landscaping around your home, ask your local gardening store for advice on plants and turf that, once established, will require minimal, if any, watering. Group plants with similar water needs together. Consider minimizing the amount of turf areas in your landscaping because grass usually requires the most water.
- Sweep your sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them and save up to 4 gallons of water per minute that you would have spent using the hose.
- Check your pipes and faucets regularly for leaks and repair them promptly. Call our office at (310) 325-9830 to report leaks in our system.
- Attend a Smart Gardening Workshop for tips on landscaping techniques to irrigate efficiently and protect the environment. For more information visit [www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/](http://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/)
- Visit [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org) or [www.lacwaterworks.org](http://www.lacwaterworks.org) for practical "how-to" information on water conservation.

**If you have any questions or comments regarding water conservation, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).**